Opening of new Central Schools in 1990-91

86. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Central Schools which are to be opened in 1990-91 in different States;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for opening new Central School in Orissa; and

(c) if so, what are the places approved of in the year 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (c) New Kendriya Vidyalayas are opened every year subject to availability of resources and suitability of the proposals received. Decision regarding the number and location of Kendriya Vidyalayas to be opened in the country including Orissa during 1990-91 has not yet been taken.

Achievements of voluntary organisation in the development of forests

87. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 193 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th May, 1990 and state:

(a) what are the Government's guidelines regarding involvement of voluntary organisations in Social Forestry Programme; and

(b) what have been the achievements of the voluntary agencies so far in development and maintenance of forests during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) The policy of the Government is to create a massive people's movement to protect and develop the forests resources of the country. This includes the involvement of voluntary organisations in the Social Forestry Programme. Under the Grant-in-aid Scheme, voluntary organisations are provided financial assistance to undertake projects for afforestation and wastelands development with the cooperation of the local people.

(b) Voluntary agencies have through their work raised the consciousness and awareness of the people about the importance of conserving the natural resources. The people have correspondingly been motivated to develop and maintain the forest areas. During the last three years, an amount of Rs. 1136.22 lakhs has also been released to various voluntary organisations under the Grant-in-aid Scheme to take up local projects.

Resource constraints for the 8th Five Year Plan

88. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are resource constraints in the formulation of Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) if reply to (a) be in negative, what are the proposed/likely resources for Eighth Plan as being envisaged by Government;

(d) whether Government have taken into consideration the loan waiver scheme for weavers, Artisans and farmers while locating resources for Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, what would be the likely impact of this scheme on the future of Eighth Plan under formulation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) to (c) The estimates of financial resources for the Eighth Plan are yet to be finalised.

(d) and (e) The estimate of resources for the plan will take over all note of the likely revenues and anticipated expenditure under various heads.

Research of space power generation

89. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Space Power Generation Research has been conducted by an Engineer of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India to extract power from vacuum created for this purpose;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

(c) what encouragement has been given to the said engineer for future research;

(d) whether Government have started any specialised research projects on space power generation in the country;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) what is the manner in which Government propose to develop Space Power Generation research in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) to (c) Shri P. Tiwari, Chief Project Engineer of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited claims that energy can be generated from vacuum. Based on this he has developed a machine which he calls a Space Power Generator which operates in the region of 10-15 KWS.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Department of Space (DOS) has been keeping abreast with the developments made internationally for generation of power from Space. However, even internationally, in view of complex technologies involved and their associated uncertainties, no major plan of development has been taken up.

Teaching of Space Science and Technology in Universities

90. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Space Science and Technology is not being taught at Degree level or post graduate level in the Indian Universities;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government could consider to introduce a course at Degree level on Space Science and Technology in all Indian Universities;

(d) if so, what would be the scheduled programme of such a new course of study; and

(e) if answer to part (a) be in negative, what are the details of the institutions / Universities teaching Space Science and Technology in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (e) According to information furnished by University Grants Commission, space science is a multi-disciplinary subject which includes studies on Physics, Mathematics, Atmospheric Science, Rocketry, Astronomy, Astrophysics, etc Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani offers M.E. programmes in Space Engineering, Rocketry